PART II—CONSERVATION OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS.

Conservation Note of the Director of Archæological Researches on the Monuments inspected during 1940-41.

KOLAR DISTRICT.

BHŌGANANDĪŚVARA TEMPLE, NANDI—(I Class).

It is necessary to preserve the Bhōganandīśvara temple, as far as possible, in its original form. No improvement should be given effect to which would affect the plan of the temple or is likely to mar the appearance of the ancient monument. Thus it is undesirable to allow any room to be put up anew in the kaisāle. If, as seems likely, the open space in between the yāgaśāle and the north-eastern kaisāle has to be enclosed so as to prevent the pilgrims from fouling the place, the introduction of ornamental cement concrete railings suitably coloured so as to match the neighbouring stones may be considered.

As regards the raising of the central ceiling of the yāgaśāle with a view to let out smoke, the removal of the brick and mortar work in the east and west sides of the ceiling may be suggested. It is not desirable to raise the roof itself by anything more than a few inches. A raised roof, particularly in front of the temple, would affect the view of the main temple.

The temple servants have been put to a lot of inconvenience owing to want of light in the pākaśāla. It is out of the question to provide windows in the side walls. Perhaps the introduction of some more electric lights, particularly where the cooking is done, would make matters better.

The whitewash and wax covering the sculptures, walls and pillars in the temple should be scraped off slowly and carefully. All further whitewashing should be strictly forbidden.

The pond to the south-east of the temple is a source of danger and nuisance in the premises. It may be kept under lock and key.

It is a pity that the Vaisya chaultry has been allowed to be constructed immediately to the north-east of the vimānas. The height of the building hides the graceful front view of the temple. As far back as 1934–35 the Director of Archæology disapproved of the construction of the building at the place where it stands at present and it is learnt that the Second Member was pleased to express his dislike of the existence of the building there when he had been to the place for inspection. At considerable cost the building has been constructed and a private party has been allowed to acquire proprietory rights in land belonging to a Protected Monument

under the administration of the Government. It is now a problem how it could be made less prominent than the temple. Moreover the pilgrims that stay there during the jātra foul the entire premises. Recently a latrine too has been permitted to be constructed in the premises in spite of protest. It is desirable that all the non-government buildings should be removed; in due course the old mantapas belonging to the temple may once again be opened out.

The temple is a First Class Ancient Monument deserving of preservation in a worthy manner.

Gudibande.

RĀMĒŚVARA TEMPLE ON THE HILL.

This temple is a muzrai institution which once enjoyed several inam lands. These lands have been reported to have been taken over by Government and an Archak is said to have been appointed on Rs. 12 per month. His salary is now reported to have been reduced to Rs. 6 on the ground that the yield of the lands is very little. As the Archak has to supplement his income by other means, the temple is in a neglected condition. Though from the architectural point of view the temple is not a very important institution, still as a monument of the early Pāllegārs who ruled at the place it deserves some attention. It is in need of repairs particularly regarding its roof which has become generally leaky. Rain water wets the whole area and sometimes even stagnates here and there. This stagnation has resulted in rendering the walls out of plumb in several places so that if immediate steps are not undertaken to repair the roof and set right the out of plumb slabs of the walls, the whole structure may come down very soon. It is also necessary to induce the Archak to look after the building better.

THE VENKAṬARAMAṆA TEMPLE IN THE VILLAGE.

This is also a monument built by one of the early Pāllegārs of the place. It happens to be an important institution in the locality deserving to be preserved intact. The roof is generally leaky so that rain water drips down in several places, wetting the wall slabs and the flooring of the temple. The vegetation growing here and there on the temple may also be removed. In other respects the temple is intact.

Devaragudipalli (near Bagepalli).

VENKAṬARAMAṆASVĀMI TEMPLE.

The temple is a muzrai institution very popular in the locality and maintained intact. But in some places in the navaranga the flooring is uneven. It may be set right when funds permit. On the left pilaster of the outer vestibule is a figure of Yoga-Narasimha for whom a brick and mortar niche has been built in recent times.

The niche may be removed. For the vāhanas which are kept in the navaraṅga a separate room may be given in the prākāra. The whitewashing on the walls and, other parts of the temple has covered the inscriptions and sculptures. It may be carefully and slowly scraped off without damage to the stone.

Betamangala.

THE VIJAYĒNDRA TEMPLE.

There is no doubt that the *sanctum sanctorum* of the temple was constructed some time during the 10th Century A.D., though it is possible that the present main image was consecrated even as late as the 16th or 17th Century A.D. But even this image is extraordinarily good and deserves to be preserved along with the temple. The temple is a minor muzrai institution and may be put into Class III of the Protected List for purposes of conservation. The mukhamaṇṭapa and the pātālānkaṇa are in a bad state so far as their roofing and their outer size-stone walls are concerned. It may be considered whether the removal of these outer walls would be advantageous for the better upkeep of the temple. They do not happen to form part of the original structure. The surroundings of the temple need to be cleared of all vegetation including the cocoanut tree on the south-east. The priest's quarters in the north-western corner of the area may be removed. A door made up of iron railings might be given to the maṇṭapa. The roof is in need of general repairs. It is reported that an estimate for Rs. 500 has been prepared and sent up for sanction. An estimate for the other items suggested above may also be prepared.

Madivala.

SVAYAMBHUVĒŚVARA TEMPLE.

This temple is a large Dravidian structure older than the Sōmēśvara temple at Kuruḍumale and as ornate. The main structure is almost intact though its roof is leaky in some places. The leaky portions may be repaired. But the prākāra and the porches particularly require immediate attention inasmuch as many of the wall slabs have fallen and are falling, being out of plumb in several places. The temple may be placed in Class III of the list of Ancient Monuments and the initial repairs may be got done. The surroundings require to be cleared of all vegetation and the view of the temple needs to be improved. The vegetation growing on the outer walls and tower of the main structure should be removed at once. The archak of the temple has built a brick granary in the north-east corner of the navaraṅga for storing his paddy. This may be removed and he may be strictly forbidden from using the temple and its premises as his dwelling place. There is a stone jagali or platform against the inner north wall of the navaraṅga. This appears to be old; but it may be removed, if necessary.

To the east of the mahādvāra of the Pārvatī temple is a cell in the prākāra of the main temple which is used as a horse-stable by the priest and as a kalyāṇa-maṇṭapa by the villagers on occasions to celebrate marriages. The roof of this cell is in immediate danger of collapsing. It may be repaired.

The area comprising the main temple, its prākāra and mahādvāra, the Pārvatī and other temples as also the pillar, etc., in front of the main mahādvāra has been enclosed by a large outer prākāra which is now in ruins. In the north-east corner of this area is a pond with stone steps and good water. The steps need repairs and the pond may be railed off for protection.

Ramasagara (near Betamangala).

VENKAṬARAMAṆA TEMPLE.

Though this temple is architecturally unimportant, it seems that if the villagers are encouraged, the institution could be put into some order and worship allowed to continue. Otherwise the structure which is now very much dilapidated may come down before long. The outer wall slabs have gone out of plumb in several places and have collapsed in some. The roof has become generally leaky and the flooring is in a bad state. The temple is a muzrai institution.

Kolar Gold Fields.

CROMLECHS.

About 3 miles to the east of K. G. F. on the pipe line, and about half a mile to the north of the village of Hungunda, north of K. G. F. are wide areas comprising several acres of land in which are found cromlechs belonging to the prehistoric age. It is learnt that some of the cromlechs have been rifled owing to the fact that the villagers are ignorant of their historical importance. The antiquities found in them are reported to have been destroyed. Instructions may therefore be issued to the local Revenue officials to see that the cromlechs are not opened in future by the ignorant villagers. The stones forming the rings on the surface may not be broken to pieces for domestic and other purposes.

Hungunda.

CHAUḌĒŚVARI TEMPLE.

Among the temples in the village of Hungunda there are two which are important from the archæological point of view. One of them is the Rāmēśvara temple on the hill to the south of the village. It is a Chōḷa monument and is quite intact. The other is the Chauḍēśvari temple which is situated at some distance to the east of the village. The structure is dilapidated and architecturally unimportant. But the

images of the Seven Mothers inside the garbhagriha are old sculptures of about the Chōḷa period. They need protection and for their sake some repairs are necessary for the temple, particularly concerning its roof.

Vakkaleri.

MARKANḌĒŚVARA TEMPLE ON THE MARKANḌĒŚVARA BEṬṬA.

This institution has not been noticed up to now in any of the Annual Reports of this department. It is a large structure built in the Dravidian style and going back to about the 14th Century A.D. and greatly extended during the succeeding periods under the Vijayanagar and Sugaṭūr rulers. The temple is sufficiently intact and with very little expenditure could be put into a decent form. For purposes of protection it may be included in Class III of the list of Ancient Monuments. The roof of the mukhamaṇṭapa is stated to be leaky in some places. The leaky portions may be cement-pointed. Some of the pillars in the verandah seem to be slanting. They may be examined. The outer prākāra walls are out of plumb in several places owing to the growth of vegetation on them. The slabs must be made quite free from the growth of trees between them. Whatever roots there might be should all be cut down and the joints cement-pointed. The roof of the kaisāle needs immediate attention. The well in front of the temple may be railed off for the sake of the safety of the pilgrims. Just inside the mahādvāra is a pool containing about 6′ of water. If possible it may be filled up after draining out the water. The flooring of the courtyard in front of the temple may be made even and paved with stones. Since the temple is situated on the summit of a hill and commands a good prospect all round and since electricity is available at Vakkalēri, the question of installing electric lights in the institution may be considered. An approach road from Vakkalēri to the temple may also be made, if possible.

Sivarapatna.

SŌMĒŚVARA TEMPLE.

The Sōmēśvara temple appears to date from about the Chōḷa period, though it is even possible that the linga inside the main cell may hail from the Gaṅga times as can be surmised from the inscription of Śrīpurusha Gaṅga standing to the north-east of the temple (c. 753 A.D). The temple has become dilapidated; but the villagers want to get the temple rebuilt in a better place in the village and install in it the main linga. They may be encouraged to contribute liberally towards the renovation of the old temple itself.

VARADARĀJA TEMPLE.

This structure is also dilapidated and its mukhamaṇṭapa which contains some good pillars is in a woeful state. The villagers may be encouraged to get this

temple also renovated. The old inscriptions on the basement cornice of the temple should not be injured or hidden from view during the course of renovation. The garbhagṛiha is empty. But since the village has several sculptors of repute, it may be possible to encourage the villagers to get a new image of Varadarāja prepared and installed in the temple.

Bellur (near Kolar).

KAṆVĒŚVARA TEMPLE.

The Kaṇvēśvara temple at Beḷḷūr is about 700 years old and abounds in inscriptions. Its situation very near the high road makes it desirable that certain initial repairs to the monument should be effected and its appearance improved. The outer walls have gone out of plumb in some places. They may be set right using only the old materials, the joints of the slabs being properly cement-pointed. The roof requires to be cleared immediately of the vegetation growing on it and cement-pointed particularly in places where rain water drips through it. The surroundings may generally be made neat and tidy. The outer walls of the Pārvatī shrine may be plastered over including the tower of the main cell, its roof being cleared of the vegetation growing on it. An approach from the road may be made and a low compound wall may be constructed enclosing the whole temple area, if possible.

RĀMANĀTHA TEMPLE.

The leaky portions of the roof require proper cement-pointing. The outer walls have collapsed in several places and have been rebuilt in recent times higgledy-piggledy here and there. The collapsed portions may be properly rebuilt. The precincts may be cleared of all vegetation and a compound wall may be constructed. The southern doorway of the navaraṅga may once again be opened to let in more light. The brick platform on the north side of the interior of the navaraṅga may be removed and the flooring improved.

Hoskote.

VARADARĀJA TEMPLE.

The Varadarāja temple at Hoskōṭe is a minor muzrai institution requiring immediate repairs particularly in respect of the northern outer wall of the sukhanāsi. This wall is out of plumb and in danger of falling. The roof is also leaky in several places. The flooring is in a very bad condition. The mukhamaṇṭapa needs some kind of protection from the cattle which are making it their shelter. Reinforced concrete screens of suitable design may be inserted to a height of 3′ if funds permit.